



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
QUESTION BANK ON DUST OF SNOW AND FIRE  
AND ICE  
CLASS X (2024-25)

I	MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS
1	<p>Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p><i>Some say the world will end in fire</i> <i>Some say in ice.</i> <i>From what I've tasted of desire</i> <i>I hold with those who favour fire</i></p> <p>(i) What can be the cause of the world's destruction as per these lines? (a) Fire (b) Ice (c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of these</p> <p>(ii) According to the poet 'fire' refers to: (a) violent desires (b) passions (c) jealousy (d) all of these</p> <p>(iii) What does ice symbolise? (a) Indifference (b) Love (c) Sympathy (d) Passions</p> <p>(iv) What message does the poet want to convey through this poem? (a) Everything is transitory (b) Life is unpredictable (c) Death is inevitable (d) Both (a) and (c)</p> <p>(v) Select the option that lists the idea of the lines in the given extract that Robert Frost wants to send through the poem. (1) People are empathetic to others' happiness and sorrow. (2) Fire and ice portray the self-destructive nature of human beings. (3) The world should not end because everyone deserves a second chance. (4) We let our emotions rule us which will surely destroy everything around us. (5) Human greed and desire only spread more like fire. (a) (1) and (5) (b) Only (2)</p>

	<p>(c) (2), (4) and (5) (d) (2) and (5)</p> <p><b>Ans. (i) (c) Both (a) and (b)</b> <b>(ii) (d) All of these</b> <b>(iii) (a) Indifference</b> <b>(iv) (d) Both (a) and (c)</b> <b>(v) (c) (2), (4) and (5)</b></p>
2	<p>But if it had to perish twice, I think I know enough of hate To say that for destruction ice Is also great And would suffice.</p> <p>(i) What does ‘it’ refer to in the first line? (a) world (b) fire (c) desire (d) heat</p> <p>(ii) The main idea given here is that _____. (a) hatred is not good (b) hatred is good (c) hatred can destroy (d) hatred can create</p> <p>(iii) Who has written the above lines? (a) Walt Whitman (b) Robert Frost (c) William Wordsworth (d) Leslie Norris</p> <p>(iv) Name the poetic device used in the line “To say that for destruction ice is also great.” (a) Metaphor (b) Imagery (c) Alliteration (d) Oxymoron</p> <p>(v) What would be a better option to end the earth? (a) ice (b) fire (c) both (a) and (b) are equally competent (d) None of the above</p> <p><b>Ans. (i) (a) world</b> <b>(ii) (c) hatred can destroy</b> <b>(iii) (b) Robert Frost</b> <b>(iv) (a) Metaphor</b> <b>(v) (c) both (a) and (b) are equally competent.</b></p>
3	The way a crow

Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree

(i) Who shook down the hemlock tree?

- (a) crow
- (b) cuckoo
- (c) nightingale
- (d) parrot

(ii) What fell on the poet?

- (a) Dust of wind
- (b) Dust of rain
- (c) Dust of storm
- (d) Dust of snow

(iii) The crow and Hemlock tree symbolise \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Sorrow
- (b) Happiness
- (c) Celebration
- (d) Death

(iv) What was in the tree that the crow shook?

- (a) owl
- (b) parrot
- (c) snow
- (d) rain

(v) What is the rhyme scheme of the given stanza?

- (a) aabb
- (b) babb
- (c) abba
- (d) abab

**Ans. (i) (a) crow**

**(ii) (d) Dust of snow**

**(iii) (a) Sorrow**

**(iv) (c) snow**

**(v) (d) abab**

4

Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.

(i) Who is the poet of this poem?

- (a) W. B. Yeats
- (b) T. S. Eliot
- (c) Robert Frost
- (d) Shakespeare

- (ii) What change does the poet mention here?  
 (a) change of cloth  
 (b) change of mood  
 (c) change of house  
 (d) none of these
- (iii) Which word from the extract means 'held in regret'?  
 (a) saved  
 (b) rued  
 (c) changed  
 (d) day
- (iv) The major part of the day had been spent by the poet in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) delight  
 (b) regret  
 (c) merriment  
 (d) meditation
- (v) Who is responsible for the change in the poet's mood?  
 (a) dust  
 (b) storm  
 (c) dust of snow  
 (d) birds

**Ans. (i) (c) Robert Frost**  
**(ii) (b) change of mood**  
**(iii) (b) rued**  
**(iv) (b) regret**  
**(v) (c) dust of snow**

- 5 The way a crow  
 Shook down on me  
 The dust of snow  
 From a hemlock tree  
 Has given my heart  
 A change of mood  
 And saved some part  
 Of a day I had rued.
- (i) From the following options choose the symbol that the dust of snow represents.  
 (a) longevity  
 (b) togetherness  
 (c) healing  
 (d) protection
- (ii) Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet before the experience shared in the poem.  
 (1) reassured  
 (2) disappointed  
 (3) curious  
 (4) demotivated

	<p>(5) thankful  (6) disheartened  (7) impulsive  (a) 1, 3 and 7  (b) 2, 4, and 6  (c) 5 and 7  (d) 1 and 3</p> <p>(iii) Identify the option that DOES NOT use the word 'rue' correctly.  (a) The film was a disaster and he rued his decision to act in it.  (b) I am sure she rued the day as she listened to a fortune-teller.  (c) It was not long before I rued my disobedience and my deceit.  (d) Others finally rue the one who is dishonest and heartless.</p> <p>(iv) Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a part to represent the whole. E.g. That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for the car.)  Pick an example of a synecdoche from the poem.  (a) Has given my heart / A change of mood  (b) The way a crow/ Shook down on me  (c) The dust of snow / From a hemlock tree  (d) And saved some part / Of a day I had rued</p> <p>(v) Choose the option showing the reason NOT corresponding with "... a crow /Shook down on me/ The dust of snow".  (a) The crow's landing on the branch of the tree.  (b) The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.  (c) The readjustment of the position of the crow on the branch.  (d) The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.</p> <p><b>Ans. (i) (c) healing</b>  <b>(ii) (b) 2, 4, and 6</b>  <b>(iii) (d) Others finally rue the one who is dishonest and heartless.</b>  <b>(iv) (a) Has given my heart / A change of mood</b>  <b>(v) (d) The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.</b></p>
6	<p>Find the correct statement in the following:  (a) A crow shook down – on a girl  (b) A dust of snow – from a banyan tree  (c) The incident changed – the poet's mood  (d) He was already feeling – happy</p> <p><b>Ans. (c) The incident changed – the poet's mood</b></p>
7	<p>Rearrange the sentences in the correct sequence and choose the correct option.  (i) Has given my heart a change of mood  (ii) Of a day I had rued  (iii) a crow shook down on me  (iv) The dust of snow from a hemlock tree</p> <p>Options:  (a) (ii)-(i)-(iii)-(iv)  (b) (i)-(iv)-(iii)-(ii)  (c) (iii)-(ii)-(i)-(iv)  (d) (iii)-(iv)-(i)-(ii)</p>

	<b>Ans. (d) (iii)-(iv)-(i)-(ii)</b>
8	<p>Assertion: The poet's mood changed. Reason: The crow was sitting on the Hemlock tree.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</b></p>
9	<p>Assertion: The poet was having a terrible day. Reason: He got fired from his job.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</b></p>
10	<p>Assertion: The dust of snow fell on the poet by a crow. Reason: The crow was adjusting himself on the tree.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</b></p>
11	<p>Assertion: The poet mentioned a poisonous tree. Reason: He wanted to indicate a sad scene.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</b></p>
12	<p>Assertion: Crows are often used in poems. Reason: Crows display a bad omen.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</b></p>
13	<p>Rearrange the sentences in the correct sequence and choose the correct option.</p> <p>(i) To say that for destruction ice/ Is also great (ii) From what I've tasted of desire (iii) But if it had to perish twice (iv) Some say the world will end in fire/ Some say in ice.</p>

	<p>Options:</p> <p>(a) (i)-(iv)-(ii)-(iii)</p> <p>(b) (iii)-(ii)-(i)-(iv)</p> <p>(c) (iv)-(ii)-(iii)-(i)</p> <p>(d) (ii)-(iii)-(iv)-(i)</p> <p><b>Ans. (c) (iv)-(ii)-(iii)-(i)</b></p>
14	<p>Assertion: The poet is with those who favour fire.</p> <p>Reason: Fire describes desire.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</b></p>
15	<p>Assertion: Ice could lead to the end of the world.</p> <p>Reason: Life is possible on earth with extreme high temperatures.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</b></p>
16	<p>Assertion: Fire and Ice are shown as destructive human emotions.</p> <p>Reason: Hatred and longing can cause damage to an individual.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</b></p>
17	<p>Assertion: Ice is not as good as fire.</p> <p>Reason: Ice causes silent damage.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</b></p>
18	<p>Assertion: The world will be going to end someday.</p> <p>Reason: Humans let their emotions control them.</p> <p>(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(b) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.</p> <p>(c) Assertion is true and reason is false.</p> <p>(d) Assertion is false and reason is true.</p> <p><b>Ans. (a) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.</b></p>
II	<b>SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (2 OR 3 MARKS)</b>
1	<p>Rationalise what you think the poet was probably doing when the dust of snow fell on him.</p> <p>Ans. When the dust of snow fell on the poet, he might probably be standing under or passing through the hemlock tree.</p>
2	<p>What does the presence of a hemlock tree tell you about the setting of the poem?</p>

	<p>Ans. The Hemlock tree is often related to some bad omens. Here, the presence of the hemlock tree tells us that the poet has used it to symbolize his depressed and negative mood.</p>
3	<p>What is the underlying message helpful to us in our hectic lives with reference to the poem, 'Dust of Snow'?</p> <p>Ans. The underlying message for us with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow' is that we should always be optimistic towards life. In the grave hours of depression, the smallest act of nature can lead to a drastic positive change.</p>
4	<p>The dusting of snow on account of the crow helped make the poet's day better How do you think the crow's droppings might have impacted the poet?</p> <p>Ans: The poet was gloomy when he was passing by the tree. His mind was filled with negative thoughts. When the crow shook the dust of snow on him, he felt a sudden change in his mood. His mind was then filled with happiness and positive thoughts.</p>
5	<p>What is the significance of using symbols to state the poet's state of mind at the beginning of the poem?</p> <p>Ans. The poet has used words like 'snow' and 'hemlock tree' to symbolize his sad and depressed state of mind. 'Snow' is colourless and is often related to barrenness while 'hemlock tree' is poisonous. Both the symbols represent the depressed mood of the poet at the beginning of the poem.</p>
6	<p>The 'dust of snow' had changed the poet's mood. Justify.</p> <p>Ans. The poet was in a sad mood as he was walking by the hemlock tree when the crow shook off the dust of snow' on him. As the snow particles fell on him, he came into contact with nature and his thoughts pacified.</p>
7	<p>What do different people say about the end of the world in the poem <i>Fire and Ice</i>?</p> <p>Ans. Some people believe that the world will end due to fire which symbolises human desires whereas, some people believe that ice will be the reason for the world to end. Here, ice symbolises cold-heartedness and hatred for each other.</p>
8	<p>What is the poet's view about how the world will end?</p> <p>Ans. The poet believes that the world is more likely to end because of the fires of desire in a man. The never-ending greed for more will bring an end to us.</p>
9	<p>"Fire and Ice" was first published in 1920. Briefly state how WW I might have influenced the theme of the poem.</p> <p>Ans. WW I was the first global war that happened due to violence and rage among people after the assassination of the Austrian heir Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The poem "Fire and Ice" was published in 1920, so it is possible that the poet, Robert Frost must have seen the destruction of the world that was the outcome of the uncontrolled rage of people.</p>
10	<p>According to the poet, how will the world end?</p> <p>Ans. As per the poet, the world might end through two possible destructive means, i.e., fire and ice. Fire stands for violent human emotions while ice stands for cold human feelings.</p>
11	<p>Justify the literal and symbolic meanings of ice as used in the poem.</p> <p>Ans. In the literal sense, ice refers to a huge drop in the temperature of the earth that will lead to a frozen world. Symbolically, ice refers to the cold human feelings such as hatred, jealousy, indifference, etc., that might end the world.</p>
12	<p>What is the significance of the symbols used in the poem 'Fire and Ice' by Frost?</p> <p>Ans. Frost represents and lust for things. It symbolises all the uncontrolled materialistic greed that humans have. However, ice is the symbol of cold feelings. It symbolises hatred, indifference and coldness of heart.</p>
13	<p>'Fire and Ice' projects a pessimistic outlook. Comment.</p> <p>Ans. 'Fire and Ice' is a warning in the form of a poem. It appeals to people to cut down on their disastrous and violent traits like anger, cruelty, lust, etc., and their 'icy' emotions like jealousy,</p>



	hatred, apathy, etc. These powerful emotions are enough to destroy the very fabric of human values and society. Thus, if not controlled, they have the power to destroy the entire world.
14	To say that for destruction, ice is also great for the poet, what does ice stand for? How is it sufficient to bring destruction? Ans. Ice stands for the cold feelings of the humans such as indifference, hatred, greed, jealousy, apathy, lack of love, cold-heartedness, etc. Although the poet states that he believes fire would bring an end to the world, he also states that if the world has to end twice, then ice or the cold feelings of people are also great to end the world.
III	<b>LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS</b>
1	What are the possible themes of this poem? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer. Ans. The poem 'Dust of Snow' revolves around themes of hope, healing and a positive attitude. Through the poem, the poet highlights that one should never lose hope. The poet happily and quickly decides that some part of his day is saved because of the dust of snow that falls on him. He no longer thinks that his day is wasted and instead has hope that his day can be saved. Further, the poem highlights nature's healing quality. He was depressed and sad because of something that had happened to him. But nature made him happy. In addition, the poem also revolves around a positive perspective. Firstly, the poet's perspective changes with a small event. Because of his sad mood, everything around him might be seen by him from a negative perspective, but it changes with the dust of snow. Secondly, the poet suggests that we can think either positively or negatively about an event or thing depending on our perspective. The images of the crow and hemlock tree are negative images but the poet uses them positively to justify the theme of the poem.
2	Nature has the power to lift our mood even when we are highly despondent. Comment on the basis of your understanding of the poem 'Dust of Snow'. Ans. The poem 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost is a poem which enlightens us on how small things of nature can refresh us and cheer us for the rest of the day. Frost has beautifully depicted a crow and a hemlock tree, which are associated with bad-omen and fear. But they have been used by the poet Frost to uplift his mood and make him feel positive. Frost's writing skill as a poet lies in the fact that he is able to effectively convey to us how such a thing as the falling of dust of snow from the top of the tree can have a refreshing effect on the mind of man. So, every aspect of nature be it a crow or a hemlock tree can be a source of positivity and can be helpful in lifting a depressed mind. In other words, everything in the world is beautiful. Nature and its creations have the power to uplift our mood even when we are in a depressed state of mind. A small incident of the dust of snow falling, by the action of a crow (who is considered a bad omen), takes away the sadness from the poet's mind and refreshes him for the rest of the day.
3	Small things in life make significant changes in our life. Elaborate with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow'. Ans. It is truly said that little things in life can make huge changes in our life. Even small incidents can have a huge impact on our lives. The poem 'Dust of Snow' beautifully states this fact. In the poem, the poet's mood is transformed because of a small event. While he was passing by the hemlock tree, the dust of snow falls on him. Such an insignificant event changes his sad and depressed mood into a joyous one. Just like the simple movement of the crow, the simple things that we do for others can make all the difference. Our random acts of kindness can brighten a person's day and sometimes change their future. Just like the poet, who had wasted some part of the day in his sorrows, is enlightened by the event, we can also make our as well as others life happier. Noticing and appreciating the things of less importance can cause us to have a spirit that is willing to change and therefore succeed.

4	<p>Comment on the use of symbols in this poem. What is the purpose to use those symbols?</p> <p>Ans. In the poem 'Dust of Snow', the poet has introduced three symbols i.e. the hemlock tree, the crow and the dust of snow. Hemlock is a tree that contains poison so the hemlock tree is a symbol of death. Second, the crow is considered to be the ugliest bird and is associated with a bad omen. Another symbol dust of snow indicates natural joy and energy. The poet uses two negative symbols to represent the negative aspect of the mind. The falling of snow by the crow certainly improves his mood. Perhaps the poet is saying that even something that we generally associate with negativity can have a positive impact. So, we can say that Frost's use of symbols is very profound and meaningful.</p>
5	<p>Discuss how extreme behaviour can hasten the end of the world with respect to the poem 'Fire and Ice'.</p> <p>Ans. In the poem, 'Fire and Ice' the poet highlights those extreme behaviours can lead to the end of the world. The poet points out the two different views regarding the end of the world and associates the extreme behaviours to it. The first view is the fire which symbolises deep emotions of desire, passion, etc. Desire according to the poet can become so intense that it can make people lose their calmness. Fire of desires if left uncontrolled can lead to the destruction of humanity as well as the world. The other view is ice which represents hatred, differentiation and insensitivity. Hatred, rigidity and icy reasoning give rise to contempt. It can end all positive human emotions such as human warmth, love, sympathy, kindness and consideration for others. This type of behaviour will only bring death to this world.</p>
6	<p>The poem 'Fire and Ice', carries with it very deep thematic ideas. Elaborate on these darkest traits of humanity.</p> <p>Ans. Frost presents the two of the darkest traits of humanity i.e. the capacity to hate and the capacity to be consumed by lust or desire. Of the two, he attributes the greater of the two evils is desire. In giving desire, the first position regarding the destruction of the world, Frost is providing a powerful statement on the subject of greed and jealousy, saying that above all else, desire is the trait of humanity that is most likely to lead to its demise. Desire represents the greatest problem that attributes to the cause of the war. Frost then attributes hatred to the same capacity to harm. However, he lessens the importance of hatred but still presents it as having the ability to lead to the destruction of the world if it were to happen for a second time.</p>
7	<p>The poet presents two reasons which will lead to the destruction of humanity. Elaborate</p> <p>Ans. The poet provides and deals with two possible causes for the end of the world. He points more towards the emotional and sentimental side of the issue. As for him, fire denotes deep passion and burning desire, while ice is highlighted for hatred. He favours both the arguments and says that either the deep burning passion or the cold hatred and jealousy factor will lead to the path of destruction. The poet is sure of this destruction of humanity. He first talks about the destruction because of fire and in case this fails, then ice will end the world. The love that people have for one another will turn into hatred. In the race of climbing up and be better than one another, people will hate each other. These negative emotions will become so strong that it will cross all the love and lead to the destruction of humanity.</p>
8	<p>How will the world end? Support your answer with scientific explanation.</p> <p>Ans. According to the scientists, the two reasons for the destruction of the world will be either fiery fire or the ice age. Some scientists believed that the world would be incinerated (destroyed) from its fiery core, while others were convinced that a coming ice age would destroy all living things on the earth's surface. In other words, either the deep heat or fire under the earth beds will lead to natural calamities like volcano eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis which will one day end the world, or the melting of ice from the snowy mountains due to global warming will shrink the world. As a result, one day the entire world will die of the icy water. Frost, thus, tries to warn people against the two greatest problems being faced by humanity and the consequences of human vices with an increased effectiveness.</p>

9	<p>As a crow you feel highly insulted by the incorrect perception humans have about your species. Imagine yourself to be a crow and write your opinion about this prejudice. Make an appeal for breaking stereotypes.</p> <p>Ans. The word 'crow' is often related to 'bad omens' and 'inauspiciousness'. This stereotype towards our species is heart-breaking. I feel hopeless that without even having any valid evidence to it, people refer to us as being 'ominous'. Perhaps because we are 'black', people consider us inauspicious and doves are considered 'good omen' maybe because they are 'white'. This ruthless prejudice makes me emotionally hurt. I want to break this stereotype for all my fellow crows too in the same way my friend did by changing a person's mood and making him happy. I hope that one day, judgmental humans will realize that what they think of us is completely wrong.</p>
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### **SUMMARY- DUST OF SNOW**

The poem demonstrates the extraordinary curative power of nature as well as the importance of the seemingly insignificant things in life. Nature has the ability to cure anything, whether it is a bad mood or an illness. It was during one of these bad days that the poet was dusted with snow by the movement of a crow near a hemlock tree. He becomes instantly happier when it snows. His day begins to improve dramatically. Nature's supremacy forced him to acknowledge that his problems are insignificant. Ironically, the fact that the hemlock is poisonous, combined with the fact that the raven is a symbol of misery and fear, has been used in poetry as a carrier of happiness in the life of the narrator, which is a paradox. The poet attempts to draw attention to the fact that creatures associated with negative aspects of life can, on occasion, bring about change and happiness. Being outside in nature, with all of its unpredictability, can be beneficial to anyone, at any time of day or night.

People consider black crows as the symbol of fear, bad luck, and death but the poet realized something different in his bitter mood. He realized that the crow is a part of nature. He depicted

that even if a crow is linked to a bad omen, it still brought him happiness. He realized that the mood and perception of a person have to do everything he analyses and concludes. For him, the crow made his day brighter by shaking the branch and letting the snowfall on him.

Robert Frost might have chosen a tree that symbolizes happiness, joy, and merriment. Despite the fact, he chose to go with hemlock trees. These trees are poisonous and toxic to human beings. As you can see, the poet has used negative proper nouns to show happiness.

The poem is the perfect depiction of what life can be. It all depends on the person and his thoughts. Your choices and emotional state will decide whether you will be happy in life or not. The poet, even though he was suffering from utter despair and witnessed a bad omen under

a hemlock tree, chose to bring a positive change and move on. A small gesture from nature made him realize how beautiful life can be if we know how to live it. The poem, "Dust of Snow" suggests that we need to find happiness in smaller things to overcome the bad phases of life.

The poem teaches us that even the smallest acts of kindness can illuminate our souls and motivate us to do better in the future.

### **LINE BY LINE EXPLANATION OF THE POEM: -**

Stanza-1

*The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow*

### *From a hemlock tree*

The poem is set in a scene where the poet is in a bad mood and is walking by a tree, a hemlock tree. Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. As he passes by, a crow happens to throw some snow dust on him. Whether it falls on his head or shoulders is unknown as there is no specific mention in the poem. Also, the readers are left in doubt about the bird's specific action. Whether the crow was landing, shivering with cold, re adjusting itself on the branch or taking off, it happened to send some particles of snow upon the author. Here, the two agents of nature, the hemlock tree and the crow are signifiers of sadness and gloom just like the poet's mood was in the opening scene.

Stanza-2

*Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.*

For reasons unknown, the author was having a terrible day. But the falling of the snow on his head lifted his mood instantly. He had already spent his day in a bad mood but the rest of it was saved by the crow and the hemlock tree. Generally, hemlock tree and crow are used for negative references but the poet used them beautifully to portray that inauspicious things can bring joy and happiness too. One must not take things for granted and should be open and accept whichever way the nature chooses to bless us.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF CROW**

Crows are usually used to represent death or despair in literature, but the poet has cleverly utilised the same crow as a bringer of joy and hope in life. The very crow is the reason the snow fell on the poet which made him have a better mood immediately.

### **THEME OF THE POEM**

The theme of the story is that even small and seemingly unimportant events in life can have their own impact on one's mood. The theme of the story is that even small and seemingly unimportant events in life can have their own impact on one's mood. The poem focuses on inculcating the importance of gratefulness and lesser attitude that indicates us taking things for granted. It's a poem of gratitude and morals that the kids need and should be able to understand from their young age.

### **LITERARY DEVICES**

- 1) Rhyme Scheme – abad cdcd
- 2) Alliteration – The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of a adjacent or closely connected words. i) Has given my heart ii) And saved some part
- 3) Assonance – The prominence of a vowel sound throughout a line is called assonance. In stanza, line 2 – 'shook down on me' – 'O' Sound is prominent.
- 4) Enjambment – When the same sentence continues to the next line without the use of any punctuation marks, it is called enjambment. It has been used throughout the poem.

### **THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE 'DUST OF SNOW'.**

The poem expresses the significance of small things in changing one's attitude. The poet appreciates the beauty of the snowflakes, which changed his mood and saved many precious moments from being wasted away. The crow shakes off the snow dust from the hemlock tree.

The same way one can shake off the sadness from one's heart.

### **SUMMARY- FIRE AND ICE**

'Fire and Ice' is a short poem by Robert Frost. In this poem, the poet refers to two predictions of how the world will end. Some say it will end in fire while others say it will end in ice. According to the poet 'fire' stands for desire, greed, avarice or lust. The more you try to satisfy them, the more they grow. There is no end to it. They spread rapidly like fire and engulf your whole life. One becomes selfish and sometimes cruel also. On the other hand, 'ice' according to the poet, stands for hatred, coldness and rigidity. One becomes insensitive and indifferent towards the feelings of others. The poet says that both fire and ice are growing with such a rapid speed that the world would soon perish either way, in fire or in ice.

### **LINE BY LINE EXPLANATION**

*Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.*

These first few lines describe the disagreement in general society on the topic of how the world ends. In a modern sense, "fire" and "ice" could well be stand-ins for "nuclear disaster" and "climate change." Frost's use of "fire" and "ice," however, is largely a metaphoric decision that opens the poem up to different kinds of interpretation. Ice and fire, of course, are opposites of one another, suggesting that most people have entirely opposing views on the apocalypse —after all, the world can't end in ice and fire at the same time. Ice and fire also represent two extremes which, on a grand enough scale, could cause immense damage, and are fitting metaphors for harbingers of death.

*From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.*

Here the speaker provides their own opinion — they equate fire with desire, which is to suggest that it is equal with passions, with greed, with rage. Fire is being used as a metaphor for strong, consuming emotions such as desire. It is a fitting analogy — in a candle or a fireplace, fire shows a person the way. It is warmth and light. In the same way, small desires are no trouble at all and can guide a person to the things they want in life. On a large scale, however, fire consumes and destroys, and so too does desire. The speaker recalls their experiences with a strong desire and tends to believe that it is those kinds of emotions and impulses that lead the world down its irrevocable path. For the speaker, the world will end in fire.

*But if it had to perish twice,*

*I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.*

As a close opposite to the burning desires the speaker sees as being so dangerous, the ice is also a concern in their mind. They believe the world will burn, in one form or the other, and that would end it — but if it didn't end, and the fire wasn't enough, the remainder of the poem says, then they believe the ice could manage the feat as well. As an opposite to a burning flame, a chilling sheen of ice represents hatred to the speaker. They think of it as something that would chill the world, slow it down, and isolate each individual enough that the human race simply couldn't survive it. The potential for ice "would suffice," and even though they tend to believe in the destructive power of desire, they see no reason to believe that hate couldn't end the world just as easily.

### **LITERARY DEVICE**

Following literary devices have been used in the poem Fire and Ice:

- **Metaphor:** It is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. e.g. fire here depicts desire and greed and ice depicts hatred and coldness in relations.
- **Symbolism:** The poem Fire and Ice is symbolic as it does not talk about the scientific assumptions but rather psychological reasons which would lead to the destruction of the world. Here, fire means greed which makes a man inhuman. On the other hand, ice means hatred which makes a person enemy of the other.
- **Alliteration:** It is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. e.g. "some say", "favour fire".
- **Assonance:** It is the repetition of vowel sounds in the same line. "hold with those who favor fire",
- **Enjambment:** It is the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza. e.g. "Some say the world will end in fire, Some say in ice."
- **Anaphora:** It is the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. e.g. "Some say the world will end in fire, Some say in ice."